

What is Claimed:

1. A method for downloading audio data; comprising the steps of:

providing user preference data indicating one or more topics of interest to a user,
and a relative ranking between these topics;

5 providing user designated time span data indicative of a desired time for listening
to an audio program;

forwarding said user preference data and said user designated time span data to a
storage device;

retrieving a plurality of audio data corresponding to said user preference data;

10 determining a length of time required to playback said audio data;

determining whether said length of time required to playback said audio data is
longer than said user designated time span;

reducing the length of at least one of said plurality of audio data if it is determined
that said length of time required to playback said audio data is longer than said user
15 designated time span; and

outputting said audio data including said one of said plurality of audio data
reduced in length.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the determination of said length of time
required to playback said audio data, the determination of whether said length of time
20 required to playback said audio data is longer than said user designated time span, and the
reducing the length of at least one of said plurality of audio data are repeated, each time
reducing the length of a different one of said plurality of audio data until it is determined

that said length of time required to playback said audio data is not longer than said user designated time span.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said audio data comprises news programs.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of said plurality of said audio

5 data comprises an advertisement.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the length of said at least one of said audio data is reduced by substituting a summary audio data for said audio data.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the length of said at least one of said audio data is reduced by substituting a title audio data for said audio data.

10 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the determination of said length of time required to playback said audio data, the determination of whether said length of time required to playback said audio data is longer than said user designated time span, and the reducing the length of at least one of said plurality of audio data are repeated, each time reducing the length of one of said plurality of audio data until it is determined that said
15 length of time required to playback said audio data is not longer than said user designated time span.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the length of said at least one of said audio data is reduced by substituting a summary audio data for said audio data.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the length of said at least one of said
20 audio data is reduced by substituting a title audio data for said summary audio data.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein the length of said at least one of said audio data is reduced by substituting a title audio data for said audio data.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein said relative ranking between topics includes placing the topics in a continuous order from most to least, or least to most desirable.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein said relative ranking between topics
5 includes placing each of the topics in one of a plurality of categories, the categories indicating a relative preference between the topics contained therein

13. The method of claim 1 wherein said relative ranking between topics includes indicating whether an audio program corresponding to each topic is eligible to be reduced in length.

10 14. The method of claim 1, wherein the length of at least one of said plurality of audio data is reduced according to the steps of:

determining which of a plurality of audio clips are eligible to be reduced in length;

15 analyzing all of said eligible audio clips to determine which of said plurality of eligible audio clips are most susceptible to reduction in length without changing the meaning thereof; and

reducing the length of one or more of said audio clips determined to be most susceptible to reduction in length without changing the meaning thereof.

20 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the reduction in total length of said one or more of said audio clips is equal to or greater than said length of time required to playback said audio data is longer than said user designated time span.

16. A method for downloading audio data; comprising the steps of:
retrieving a plurality of audio data;

determining a length of time required to playback said audio data;

determining whether said length of time required to playback said audio data is longer than a designated time span; and

reducing the length of at least one of said plurality of audio data if it is determined
5 that said length of time required to playback said audio data is longer than said designated time span.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein said plurality of audio data is selected in accordance with one or more user preferences.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein said designated time span is designated
10 by a user.

19. A base unit for downloading audio data; comprising:

an input port for receiving user preference data and user designated time span data;

a transmission device for forwarding said user preference data and said user
15 designated time span data to a remote storage unit;

a receiver for receiving audio data from said remote storage device selected and in accordance with said user preference data and said user designated time span data; and

an output port for outputting said received audio data.

20. The base unit of claim 19, wherein said received audio data is output to a
20 remote device.